



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### OFFICE OF COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

For Immediate Release: PMs OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1943. W

Harold L. Ickes, Coordinator of Fisheries, today discussed with representatives of the Food Distribution Administration means of solving the ice shortage which has tied up scores of shrimp boats along the Louisiana and South Carolina coasts.

Reports to the Coordinator's office were that 86 trawlers and five ice boats were tied up at Buras, 100 trawlers at Morgan City, and smaller numbers at other points along the Louisiana coast, site of most U. S. shrimp production. An undetermined number of vessels was tied up in South Carolina ports.

The Louisiana shrimp industry is now receiving only about 50 percent of its normal ice requirements due to the shortage which has affected other elements of the food business and civilian consumption as well.

Several factors are to be blamed for the shortage in Louisiana, Charles E. Jackson, Acting Deputy Coordinator, declared. One has been the large increase in population in the area because of activities connected with the war and the inability of ice-producing firms to obtain sufficient manpower and facilities to meet the extra summer demand. There have also been increased demands for ice for shipments of fresh produce originating in Louisiana and for bananas passing through the port of New Orleans.

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